Vol. VIII. Numb. 25

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reasons why the Observator *has insisted so much on having the whole* Spanish *Monarchy and the* West Indies *restor'd to the House of* Austria. *His Vindication against an Objection that he has forgot insisting upon some Benefit to be stipulated to his native Country at next Treaty; and Arguments for our insisting to have* Newfoundland *intirely restor'd to* Great Britain.

From Saturday, April 23. to Wednesday, April 27. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter, with a heavy Charge against you, Master, that you have pleaded so long for King *Charles* to have the whole *Spanish* Monarchy, that you seem to neglect our own Mother Country; which, after the Expence of so many Millions in this War, may deserve some Benefit for it self, as well as others, when a Peace comes to be treated of.

Obs. That's a heavy Charge indeed, *Roger*; but as it seems well intended, it ought to be well taken, tho' if the Gentleman had consider'd my Papers all along, I fancy he would have been more moderate in his Charge. The worst I wish my native Country, is, that every Man who has the Honour to be born in it, should out-do me in Zeal for its true Interest. Had they all done so, *Roger*, I dare venture to say we should never have had a Popish Prince on the Throne, and by Consequence any Occasion for the late happy Revolution, nor been disappointed as to the Effects of it; that we should have had no Ground for Complaint of any ill Managements of the War by Sea or Land, Misapplications of the publick Money, dishonourable Treaties, Neglect of our Navy and Trade, or of not pursuing our Interest in *America*; which the late Treaty of Alliance gave us a fair Opportunity to do, as I have often urg'd. Besides, *Roger*, I plead no otherwise for King *Charles*, than as the general Interest of *Europe*, and our own particular Interest, is concern'd in it; for the *Spaniards*, when not under *French* Influence, have always been true to us in their Treaties; therefore I am for having the House of *Austria* restor'd to their Government over them, for our own Sakes, and not for having it continu'd in the Hands of the *French*, who are our hereditary and irreconcileable Enemies; so that in pleading King *Charles*'s Cause, I plead our own. But pray tell me the Particulars of the Charge against me, *Roger?*

Country-m. Why, Master, he wonders you have made no Mention of having *Newfoundland* restor'd to us; and that this has not been propos'd as a Thing necessary to be insisted on at the Treaty.

Obs. I have mention'd it several Times, tho' not of late, *Roger*, any otherwise than as it is included in the general Restitution of all they have taken from us and our Allies since the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*. I have frequently mention'd the Improvement of our Fishery in general, and of that particularly, as one of its chief Branches. I have several Times recommended Books, wherein that has been insisted on, to the Perusal of the Publick, particularly one publish'd in 1697, call'd, *The old and true Way of Manning the Fleet*, and *Sheriff* Bethel's *Interest of States and Princes*; and I mention'd *Newfoundland* expresly, Vol. 6. N. 91. and Vol. 7. N. 68. But I shall be glad to hear what that Gentleman says concerning it.

Country-m. He wonders, Master, that there was no Mention of it in the late Address of the Lords and Commons about the Terms of Peace, since it does so nearly concern us. But there's his Letter, Master, perule it your self.

Obs. I find the Gentleman gives a very good Answer to that himself, *Roger*; for in that Address, our Lords and Commons were to shew, that their chief Concern was for the general Interest of *Europe*, in order to animate the Confederacy, and that they did not doubt but her Majesty was sufficiently acquainted with our just Title and Right to that Fishery; and that it was her Concern, in Honour and Interest, to have it entirely restor'd to us, especially since we are entitl'd to it by the first Discovery, a long Possession, the Acknowledgment of our Enemies, and an Act of Parliament, which plainly shew, that 'tis more properly the Business of the Executive, than of the Legislative Power, to see, that we have Justice done us in that Matter.

Country-m. Pray, Master, make that plain to me, that I and my Country Neighbours, and honest *Joan*, may understand it; for you may take my Word for it, *Joan* is a good She-Patriot.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger*; we have need of She-Patriots now, for abundance of the nobler Sex are gone over to another Interest; so that our best Tenure, both as to Possession and Reversion, seems at present to be by the Petticoat, *viz.* her Majesty Queen *Anne*, and the Princess *Anna Sophia* the Elector's *Dowager* of *Hannover*, and we may truly say, we have never been better govern'd, than by Queens. Nay, I don't know, *Roger*, but the *French* King thinks he has the best Hold of us by the Petticoat too, and that he has a greater Dependance on the Daughter of *St. Germains*, and the two Daughters of *Savoy*, than on the Pretender, because he may think himself more capable of promoting his Interest by the former, than by the latter; otherwise, perhaps we should have heard more of him, than only that he once took a Race on our Coasts.

Country-m. Well, Master, Raillery a-part, pray let's come to the Purpose in Hand.

Obs. Why, *Roger*, as to *Newfoundland*, we have a Title to it from the first Discoverer, *Sebastian Cabot*, who presented three of the Natives to our King *Henry* the VIIth. His Grand-daughter, Queen *Elizabeth*, took Possession of it by Sir *Humphry Gilbert*, and forbid other Nations to fish there. In her Successor, King *James* the Ist's Time, our Fishery there was in a very flourishing Condition, and enjoy'd by us, without any Rival; so it continu'd, as the Gentleman says well, till the 9th of King *Charles* the IIst, as appears by his Letters Patents of the 10th of *February* that Year, which recites, 'That '*Newfoundland* had been acquir'd to the Dominions 'of his Progenitors, which he held, and his People 'had many Years resorted to those Parts, where, 'and on the Coasts adjoining, they employ'd themselves in Fishing, &c. whereby a great Number 'of His People had been set at Work, and Navigation and Mariners much encreas'd, &c. and then 'ordains some Laws for the better Government of 'the Fishing, Ships, and Inhabitants, &c.

Country-m. All this makes our Title very clear, Master. How came the *French* to get Footing there?

Obs. Much about this Time, *Roger*, they obtain'd Leave from King *Charles* the IIst, to fish in that Country, on paying 5 *per Cent.* for all Ships they sent thither, as an Acknowledgment of our Right, and their Allotments were appointed *Westward* of *Cape Raze*, as the *Considerations on the Trade to* Newfoundland justly inform you.

Country-m. Obtain'd Leave from the King, Master!

ſter! Was not the Conſent of Parliament ask'd firſt? Could the King grant that Liberty, and diſpoſe of the Nation's Property by himſelf?

Obſ. Thou talk'ſt like a Novice in Hiſtory, *Roger*. There were Abhorrers of Parliaments in thoſe Days, as well as ſince: They had not then got the Art of bribing Parliaments, as has been practis'd we know when, and of debauching the Nation's Repreſentatives by the Peoples own Money; therefore they took the ſhorter Way of laying them aſide for ten or twelve Years together, at the ſame Time the King had got a *French* Queen into his Boſom, a Lady of Intrigue and Paris; ſo that it was no hard Matter for the *French*, in ſuch Circumſtances, to procure that Licenſe.

Country-m. I underſtand you, Maſter. But have they got no better Title to it ſince?

Obſ. I won't ſay they have got any better Title ſince, *Roger*, but they had a better Bargain; for King *Charles* the IId, in the 27th of his Reign, confirm'd that Liberty to them, and quitted them the Acknowledgment of 5 *per Cent.* over and above.

Country-m. And did our Parliaments agree to this tamely, Maſter?

Obſ. Thou art the dulleſt Fellow in Nature, *Roger*: How often have I told you, That the Courtiers, in his Reign, being ſenſible how fatal it prov'd to King *Charles* the IId, to quarrel with his Parliaments, took another Method, which was, to buy off a Majority of the Commons from the Intereſt of their Country, and to obtain their Conſent to whatever the Court thought fit. We have ſtill a Liſt of thoſe who were entertain'd at Ordinaries by the Court, with a Parcel of Guineas under each Man's Plate, or folded up in his Napkin, to make their Dinners digeſt; and of others that had their Penſions regularly paid them by the Lord Treaſurer *Clifford*, &c. So that the Majority of the Houſe of Commons could neither ſee nor ſpeak; and no Wonder, *Roger*, for that divinely inſpir'd Legiſlator *Moſes*, tells us, *Deut.* 16. 19. *That a Gift blinds the Eyes of the Wiſe, and perverts the Words of the Righteous*; and *Solomon*, the wiſeſt of Princes, who had Experience of Kingcraft, as well as of other Things, tells us, *That wicked Men take Gifts to pervert the Ways of Judgment, that every Man is a Friend to him that gives Gifts; and that Gifts in ſecret, pacify Anger*; ſo that we are not to think it ſtrange, that angry Parliament-men, as well as others, have been pacify'd by Gifts, and voted, that all was well, when it was quite otherwiſe.

Country-m. That makes me admire the Wiſdom of our Anceſtors, Maſter, who, as they gave Money for the publick Service, appointed who ſhould lay it out, and demanded a ſtrict Account how they executed their Truſt; but I perceive ſome Parliament-men have grown more cunning in latter Ages, and were for entruſting thoſe with the Money of the Nation, ſuch as Treaſurer *Clifford*, &c. that would let them have a Share of the publick Spoil, without betraying the Secret, or at leaſt enable 'em to bribe to ſuch a Pitch, as to ſtifle all Parliamentary Enquiries. In the mean Time, let's return to our Subject. Has our Nation never aſſerted their Right to *Newfoundland* ſince that Time, Maſter?

Obſ. Yes, *Roger*, they have; for notwithſtanding thoſe Grants by the two *Charles's*, which were confirm'd to the *French* by the late King *James*, there was an Act made in the 10th and 11th of King *William*, of glorious Memory, Cap. 25. which runs thus: 'That whereas the Trade of, and Fiſhing 'at *Newfoundland*, is a beneficial Trade to this 'Kingdom, not only in the employing great Num-'bers of Sea-men and Ships, and exporting and 'conſuming great Quantities of Proviſions and 'Manufactures of this Realm, whereby Tradeſmen, 'and many poor Artificers, are kept at work, but 'alſo in bringing into this Nation, by Returns of 'the Effects of the ſaid Fiſhery from other Coun-'tries, great Quantities of Wine, Oil, Plate, Iron, 'Wool, and ſundry other uſeful Commodities, to 'the Encreaſe of his Majeſty's Revenue, and the 'Encouragement of Trade and Navigation; be it 'enacted, &c. That henceforth no Alien or Stran-'ger whatſoever, ſhall at any Time take any Bait, 'or uſe any ſort of Trade or Fiſhing whatſoever in '*Newfoundland*, or in any of the Iſlands or Places 'above-mention'd. But more of this another Time.

Advertiſements.

To Morrow will be publiſh'd,

☞ The Optics, a Poem, inſcribd to Mr. Grant, Coun-ſellor, on his Optick Art. Written by a Gentleman for-merly of Trinity-College in Cambridge. Sold by J. Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ An Account of a ſecond Dream at Harwich, ſupplying all the Omiſſions and Defects in the firſt Dream. In a Let-ter to the Lone Member of Parliament, about the Gentlemen. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price 2d.

☞ I do hereby publickly declare, That I neither directly, nor indirectly know any thing of the Letter Mr. Morten the Surgeon pretends was ſent him, and which he has made public in ſeveral Newspapers, but do believe, if any ſuch Letter came to his Hands, that I no more deſir'd to re-ceive it, than I forg'd it himſelf; it was ſent by ſome Patient or other of his, that had been two or three times poiſon'd by him, to me People, but a very ill one, and was afterwards cur'd by my Royal Decoction; ſome of whom I have heard ſpeak in as harſh Terms of him like thoſe contain'd in the Letter full of Aſperſions, Mr. M. may believe me, in terming me a Quack-doctor, for I never did, nor do know any thing of that Trade, but have been a Practitioner in Phyſick above 20 Years, and brought up under the Care of the ableſt Phyſicians in London. For theſe harſh Expreſſions, I appeal to the Cenſure of all the Profeſſors of Phyſick and Surgery, all of which he has abus'd in Print, either in general or particular, whether I ought not to make this Return for the many ſcur-rilous and falſe Aſperſions caſt upon me, after I had us'd him like a Gentleman? But his Advertiſements ſhew him to be more.

John Smelaer.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pain in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practiti-oners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying anything for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in High Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Ap-pendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereup-on. By J. Smelaer, Practitioner in Phyſick, and Author of the Royal Decoction. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6d, together 3s. 6d. Sold by J. Helms in Weſtminſter-hall, R. Cooling at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Rilotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over a-gainſt little Turn-ſtile.

QUACKERY UNMASK'D; or, Reflections on the 6th Edition of Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, and its Appendix, and the Pamphlet call'd The charitable Surgeon, &c. containing a full and plain Detection and Refutation of ſome groſs Errors, &c. of thoſe Au-thors: Interſpers'd with many new and uſeful Obſervations concern-ing the Venereal Diſeaſe, and the Method and Medicines proper for its ſpeedy, ſafe, and effectual Curation. Proper Remarks on Mr. Marten's admirable Medicine, and his infallible Preſervative. A full and true Ac-count of Quacks, and their Method of Practice. An Account of ſome excellent Medicines, &c. Highly neceſſary to be read by all Venereal Patients, who would prevent their own Ruin, and by all Phyſicians, Sur-geons, and Apothecaries, who are here vindicated from Mr. Marten's Aſperſions. By J. Spinke, licens'd Practitioner in Phyſick and Surgery. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Wood-ward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, B. Baker in Weſtminſter-hall, and the Author at the Golden Ball between the Sun and Caſtle Taverns in Horſey-lane Market in Cheapſide. Price s. 1 6 d.

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